

Massachusetts Department of Correction

Office of Strategic Planning & Research

Executive Office of Public Safety

September 2006

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Female Offenders and Massachusetts County Corrections

Which counties house female offenders?

There are 13 counties in Massachusetts that have Sheriffs and adult correctional facilities. Each county submits daily "counts" of their Houses of Correction (HOC) and Jail populations to the Department of Correction (DOC), which are incorporated into a daily "count sheet" disseminated weekly. The data herein is based on those figures, representing county's counts of their female populations on the first Monday of each month July 2005-June 2006 (FY2006).

Table 1: Counties housing females by HOC & Jail

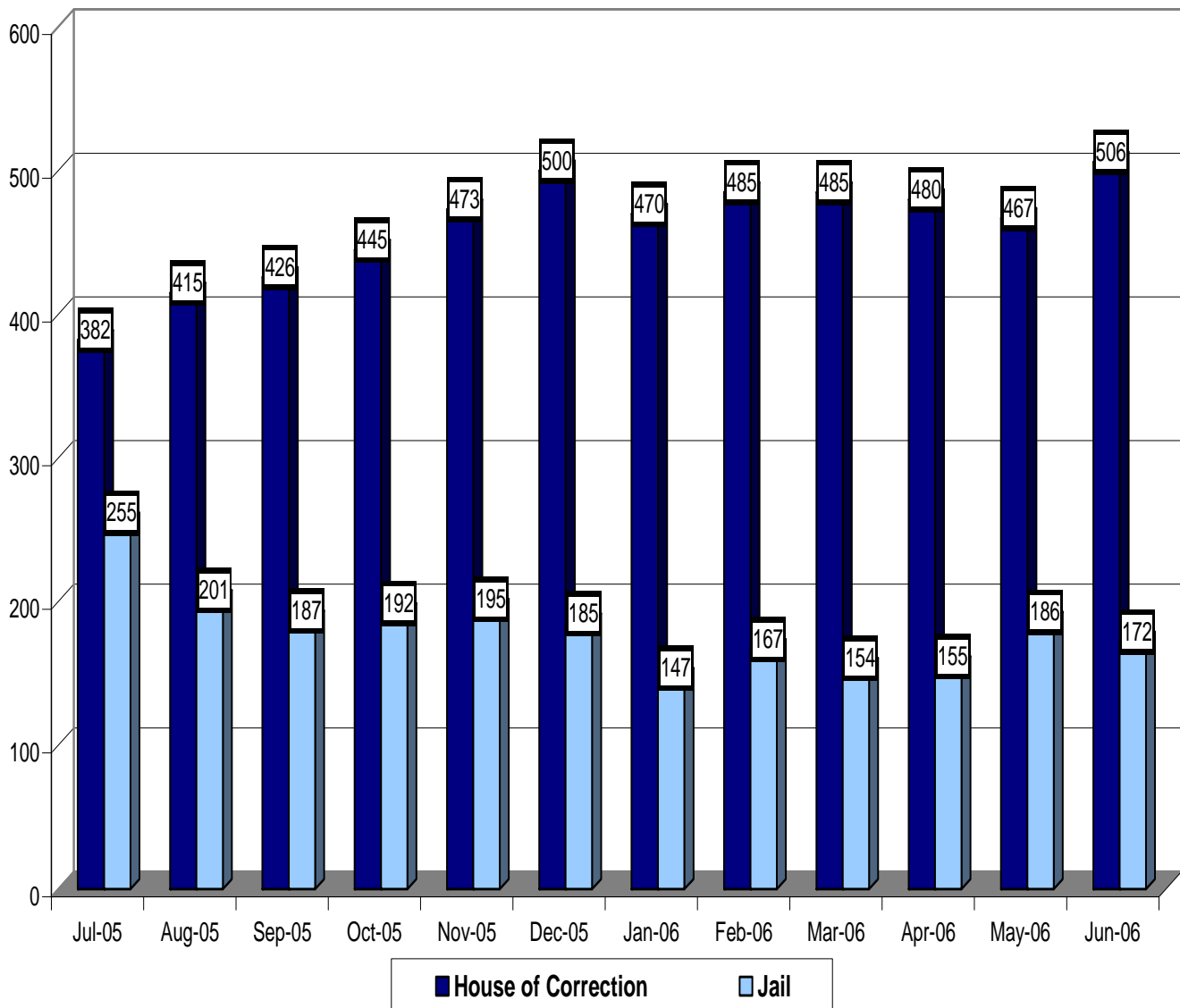
County	House of Correction	Jail
BARNSTABLE	Yes	Yes
BERKSHIRE	Yes	Yes
BRISTOL	Yes	Yes
DUKES	No	No
ESSEX	Yes	No
FRANKLIN	*No	No
HAMPDEN	Yes	Yes
HAMPSHIRE	No	Yes
MIDDLESEX	No	No
NORFOLK	No	No
PLYMOUTH	No	No
SUFFOLK	Yes	Yes
WORCESTER	No	No

*One female was noted in 5 of the months reported.

Which counties house the most females?

- Suffolk County housed the largest number of females, in general, but only in their HOC.
- 5 counties (Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Hampden and Suffolk) housed both HOC and Jail female offenders;
- 6 counties (Dukes, Franklin, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Worcester did not house females;
- 1 (Essex) housed a portion of their HOC female offenders;
- 1 (Hampshire) housed just their jailed females;

Figure 1: Total Female Populations * in County House of Corrections and Jails* FY2006:



**Reported by County Sheriffs in daily count sheets submitted to the DOC.*

- The number of sentenced females in county HOC's increased by 25% during the fiscal year July 2005-June 2006;
- Total HOC female counts increased 19% from 385 in July 05 to 506 in June 2006;
- The number of females awaiting trial in county jails dropped from a high of n=255 in July 2005 to n=147 in January 2006, back up to n=172 in June 2006; the decrease from July 2005 to June 2006 was 33%.

Tables 2 and 3 provide totals for each county on the first Monday of each month in FY06, by HOC (Table 2) and jail (Table3)

Table 2: Female Offender County HOC Population FY 2006 by Month

County	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06
BARNSTABLE	23	26	26	29	31	32	25	20	18	19	23	28
BERKSHIRE	23	24	24	29	26	27	29	28	30	22	25	24
BRISTOL	67	69	69	65	69	66	69	79	82	76	73	68
DUKES												
ESSEX	40	39	41	35	37	38	35	28	34	33	32	30
FRANKLIN	1	0	1					1		1		1
HAMPDEN	124	124	125	136	142	153	143	136	126	125	128	148
HAMPSHIRE												
MIDDLESEX												
NORFOLK												
PLYMOUTH												
SUFFOLK	104	133	140	151	168	179	169	193	195	204	186	207
WORCESTR												
TOTAL:	382	415	426	445	473	495	470	485	485	480	467	506

- Though each county that housed females experienced a fair amount of monthly fluctuation in their population counts, the most pronounced were among Hampden and Suffolk counties.
- Bristol County's history of being one of the only counties to house females from other counties impacted their range in their female population counts as well. Information submitted does not identify which "other" county females are housed in Bristol, but it appears at least a portion are Suffolk County Detainees.

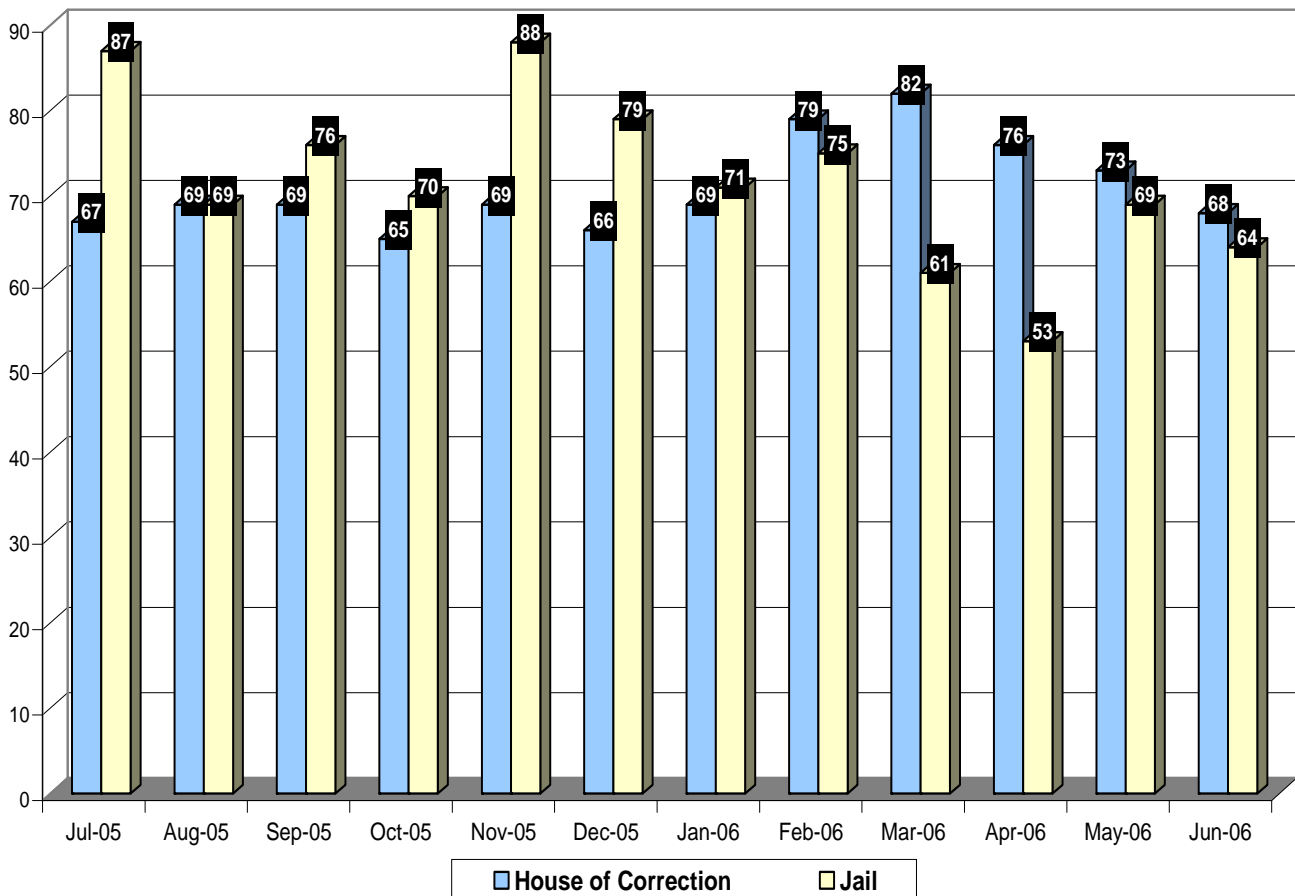
Table 3: Female Offender County Jail Population FY 2006 by Month

County	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06
BARNSTABLE	29	26	29	35	27	24	12	11	17	14	23	19
BERKSHIRE	16	16	17	13	20	12	8	11	9	13	12	11
BRISTOL	87	69	76	70	88	79	71	75	61	53	69	64
DUKES												
ESSEX												
FRANKLIN	4	3	7	4	10	4	3	2	4	2	6	4
HAMPDEN	50	40	53	60	48	55	47	61	55	68	68	74
HAMPSHIRE	7	7	10	7	2	6	4	6	3	5	8	8
MIDDLESEX												
NORFOLK												
PLYMOUTH												
SUFFOLK	62	40	3	3		5	2	1	5			
WORCESTR												
TOTAL:	255	201	195	192	195	185	147	167	154	155	186	180

- The number of females in county jails declined for most counties in FY06, except Hampden;
- Hampden county jails reported an increase from 50 in July 2005 to 74 in June 2006, representing a 33% increase;
- Suffolk county jail apparently ceased housing females after March 2006, reporting 62 in July 2005, then 40 in August to a range of 0-5 for the following seven months.

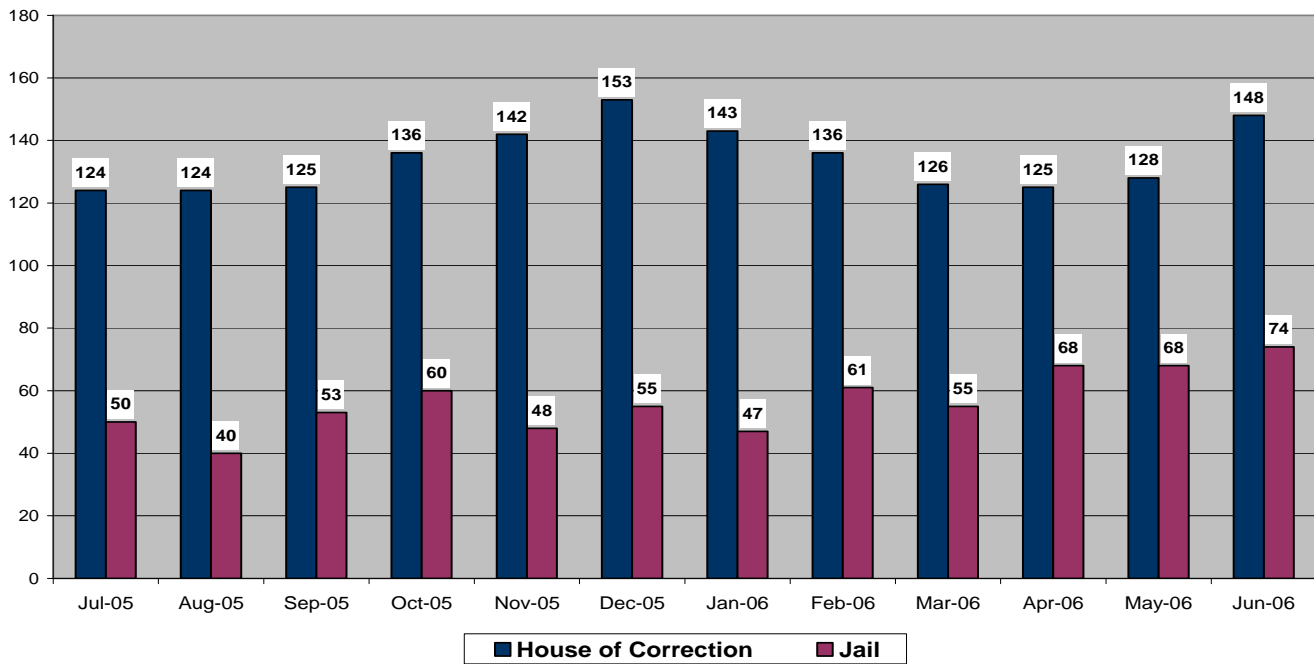
Graphs reflecting the number of females housed in the three counties (Bristol, Hampden, and Suffolk) with the largest number of females offenders are provided in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

Figure 2: Bristol County Female Offender Population* FY2006



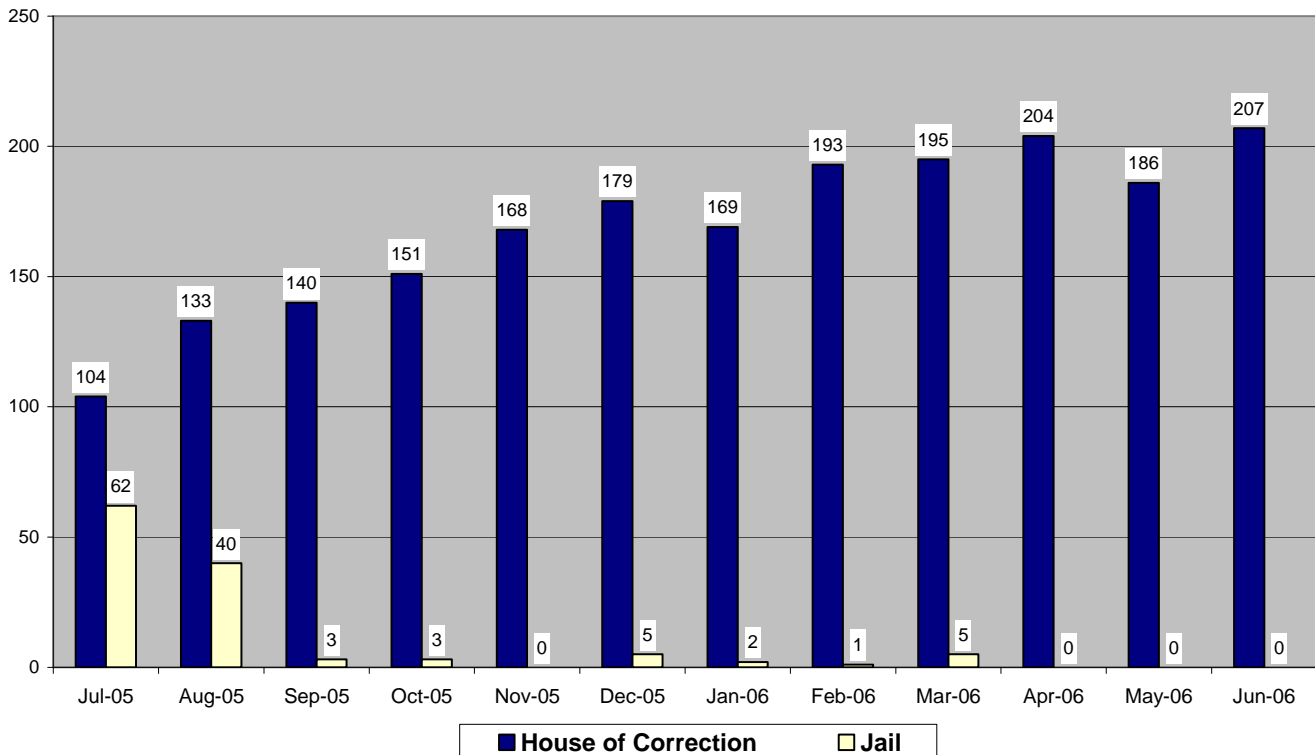
**Reported by Bristol County Sheriff in daily count sheets submitted to the DOC.*

Figure 3: Hampden County Female Offender Population* FY2006



**Reported by Hampden County Sheriff in daily count sheets submitted to the DOC.*

Figure 4: Suffolk County Female Offender Population*FY2006



**Reported by Suffolk County Sheriff in daily count sheets submitted to the DOC.*

Tables 4 & 5 reflect the count of county females on the first Monday of each month in FY 06 in DOC custody.

- The daily count of sentenced county females in DOC custody fluctuated throughout FY06, ranging from a low of 298 to a high of 359, averaging 316.
- County females from Essex, Middlesex and Worcester represented the highest numbers in DOC custody.
- The upward trend of county sentenced females, in DOC custody toward the end of FY 06 is supported by a recent count of 362 on October 2, 2006.

Table 4: Female County Sentenced Inmates in DOC Facilities FY 2006

County	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06
Barnstable						1						1
Berkshire	2	2	1	1	1	1	1					
Bristol	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Essex	84	83	82	80	75	69	69	73	70	72	76	78
Franklin	1											
Hampden	1			1	1							
Hampshire												
Middlesex	65	64	65	78	72	69	78	67	69	85	88	96
Norfolk	35	38	44	42	35	35	40	42	40	40	36	48
Plymouth	42	40	40	42	45	44	43	42	41	38	38	47
Suffolk	1		2	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	3
Worcester	90	89	85	80	75	74	70	69	71	73	82	85
Total	323	318	322	329	308	298	307	298	295	313	325	359

Table 5: Female County <i>Awaiting Trial</i> Detainees in DOC Facilities FY 2006												
County	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06
Barnstable												
Berkshire												
Bristol	1											
Essex	44	51	56	44	44	39	41	49	43	58	65	48
Franklin				1		1						
Hampden												
Hampshire												
Middlesex	39	41	62	43	51	54	46	47	37	36	50	31
Norfolk	16	15	16	16	18	20	22	31	18	19	20	19
Plymouth	6	7	6	7	5	8	8	9	8	6	7	6
Suffolk	7	5	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	1	1	1
Worcester	53	32	36	48	45	47	30	42	39	32	38	44
Total	166	151	178	160	165	171	147	180	147	152	181	149

Figure 5: Female county Inmates in DOC Facilities FY2006

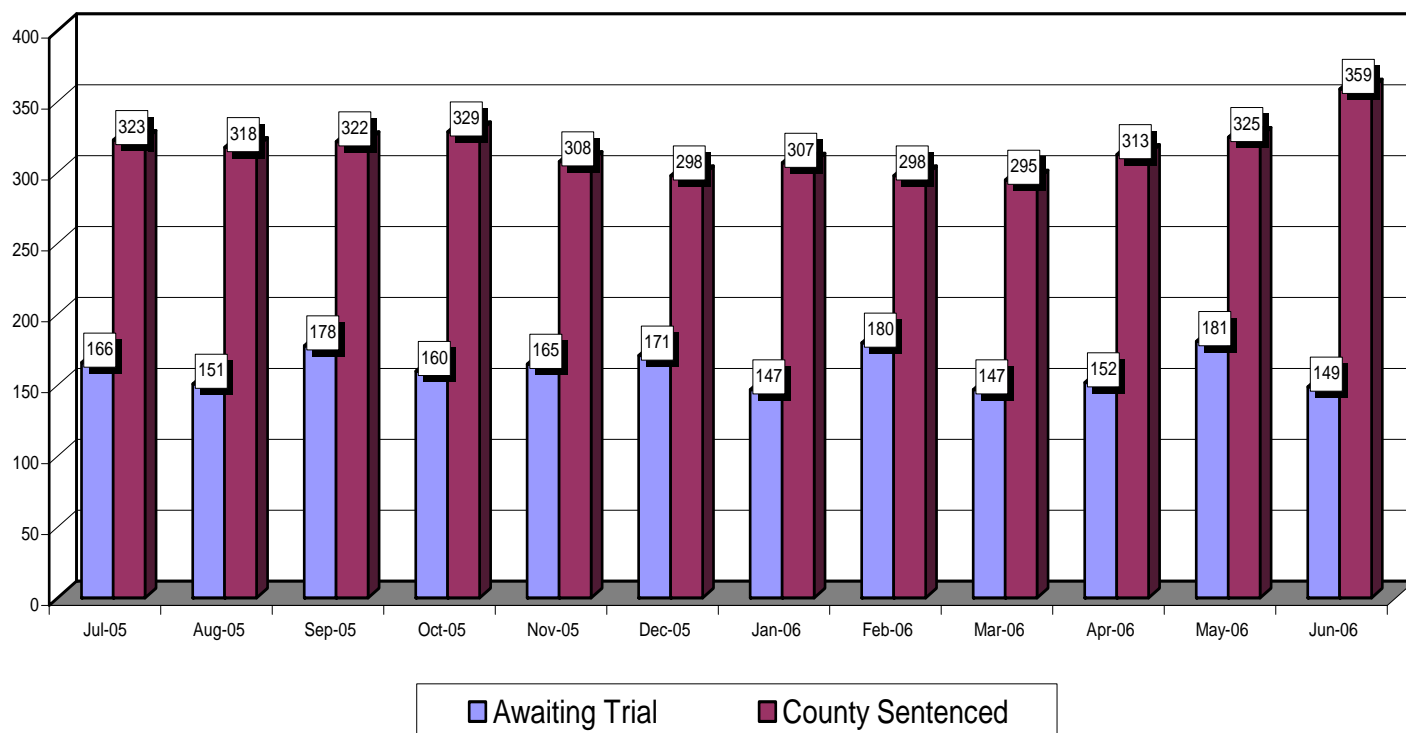
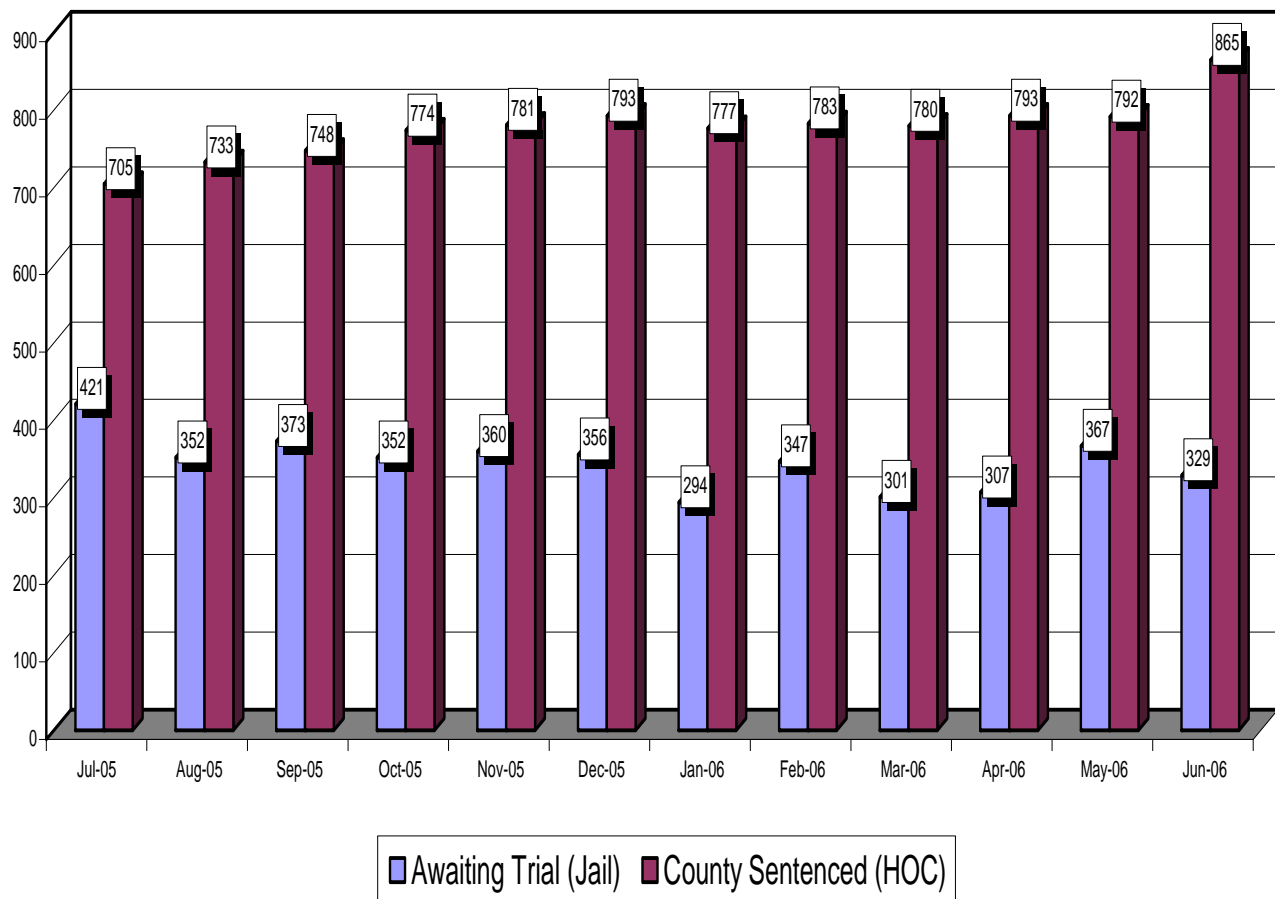


Figure 6 reflects the combined totals of county sentenced females and awaiting trial detainees combining these state wide totals in County and DOC custody.

Figure 6: Total Female County Inmates in DOC & County Facilities FY2006



- The total number of county sentenced females increased 18% from 705 to 865 during FY 06.
- In comparison, the total number of county females awaiting trail decreased 29% from 255 to 180, with a fair amount of fluctuation throughout FY 06.
- While the total number of county females was 1,194 in June2006 it continued to rise to 1,211 by October 2006.

Table 6 combines the **total number of county females awaiting trial** in both County jails and DOC custody (MCI-Framingham) on **October 2, 2006**.

Table 6: County FEMALES Awaiting Trial Detainees on 10/2/06			
County	DOC Custody	County (Jail) Custody	Total
Barnstable	0	16*	16
Berkshire	0	15	15
Bristol	0	85**	85
Essex	56	0	56
Franklin	0	5	5
Hampden	0	78	79
Hampshire	0	8	8
Middlesex	33	0	33
Norfolk	18	0	18
Plymouth	15	0	15
Suffolk	0	4	4
Worcester	49	0	49
Total	171	212	383

*One was from another county other than Barnstable

**31 were from another county other than Bristol

- The data suggests that the 31 “other county” females housed in Bristol county represent Suffolk county’s female detainee population.
- Western Massachusetts counties (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden & Hampshire) combined number of female county detainees totaled 107 (none resided in a DOC facility).
- Females criminally sentenced to Essex County are sent to the DOC and remain in DOC custody, except for those meeting the criteria and selected to participate in Essex County Sheriff’s Women in Transition (WIT) program who are then transferred to Essex County for this pre-release program.
- County females awaiting trial in DOC custody from Essex (56), Worcester (49), and Middlesex (33) counties together (138) comprised 81% of county females awaiting trial in DOC Custody and 36% of ALL county females awaiting trial statewide.
- While Middlesex County represents the fourth largest number of the female county sentenced population (n=82), neither they nor Worcester (n=75), Plymouth (n=51) or Norfolk (n=41) house any of their sentenced females.

Table 7 combines the **total number of *county sentenced females*** in both County custody (HOC's) and DOC custody (MCI-Framingham) on **October 2, 2006**.

Table 7: County Sentenced FEMALES on 10/2/06			
County	DOC Custody	County (HOC) Custody	Total
Barnstable	3	21	24
Berkshire	0	24	24
Bristol	1	90	91
Essex	105	31	136
Franklin	0	0	0
Hampden	1	144	145
Hampshire	0	0	0
Middlesex	82	0	82
Norfolk	41	0	41
Plymouth	51	0	51
Suffolk	3	189	192
Worcester	75	0	75
Total	362	499	861

- The largest number of *county sentenced* females come from Suffolk (23%), followed by Hampden (17%), where both County HOC's house the vast majority of their sentenced females.
- Essex had the third largest number of county sentenced females (16% of total county sentenced females), but only housed 36% of their total sentenced females (all of whom initially are in DOC custody).
- Among the *county sentenced* population if one were to combine those in Western Massachusetts counties (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden & Hampshire), the number of females totals 169 (only 1 was in a DOC facility).

This Research Brief was written by Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D. Publications from the DOC Strategic Planning and Research Division are available on the DOC's website: www.mass.gov/doc. Any comments or questions can be addressed by e-mail: Research@doc.state.ma.us. The contributions of Gail Simms and Margaux Reinoso to the preparation of this report were significant and greatly appreciated.